# Message Text

#### CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 USUN N 01844 082155Z ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W

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O 082154Z MAY 78

FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1216

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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#### **EXDIS**

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: MARR, IS, LE

SUBJECT: SOUTH LEBANON: POSSIBLE SYG REPRESENTATIVE IN

BEIRUT

1. AMB PARKER FROM BEIRUT CALLED ON USYG URQUHART MAY 8
FOR GENERAL DISCUSSION OF SITUATION IN LEBANON AND
PROBLEMS FACING UNIFIL. WHEN PARKER RAISED QUESTION OF A
REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SYG IN BEIRUT, URQUHART TOLD HIM
THAT ARRANGEMENTS HAD BEEN VIRTUALLY COMPLETED FOR
ASSIGNMENT OF A QUALIFIED SECRETARIAT EMPLOYEE TO THE POST
BUT THAT AN UNFORESEEN DIFFICULTY HAD JUST ARISEN.
PERSON TO BE ASSIGNED IS FRENCH NATIONAL AND THE FRENCH
HAD OBJECTED, AS THEY BELIEVE THEIR PROFILE IN CONNECTION
WITH UNIFIL OPERATION IS ALREADY TOO HIGH. ANOTHER
CANDIDATE FOR THE JOB WILL NOW HAVE TO BE FOUND.
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URQUHART ASSURED PARKER, HOWEVER, THAT THE MATTER IS BEING PURSUED ON URGENT BASIS.

2. UNNY DOES NOT SEE SAME DIFFICULTIES WITH ASSIGNMENT TO BEIRUT OF A LESS SENIOR CIVIL SERVANT AS IT DID WITH THAT OF A HIGH-LEVEL SPECIAL REP OF THE SYG. FORMER, IT BELIEVES, WOULD NOT BE SO APT TO BE DRAWN INTO MIDDLE OF

INTERNAL LEBANESE POLITICAL SQUABBLES. AT SAME TIME, UN AGREES A PERSON WITH POLITICAL SAVVY COULD BE VERY USEFUL BOTH IN PERFORMING LIAISON FUNCTION IN BEIRUT AND ACTING AS POLITICAL ADVISER TO ERSKINE.

3. URQUHART ALSO MENTIONED THAT KUWAITI AMB BISHARA HAD CALLED ON SYG THAT MORNING (MAY 8) TO DISCUSS PROGRESS OF ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL AND SPEED OF DEPLOYMENT OF NEW UNIFIL CONTINGENTS. BISHARA SPOKE IN TERMS OF SC MEETING SOME TIME NEXT WEEK TO ESTABLISH TIMETABLE FOR WITHDRAWAL. URQUHART SAID SYG DID WHAT HE COULD TO DISCOURAGE EARLY MOVE FOR FORMAL COUNCIL MEETING. LEONARD

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## Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z Capture Date: 01 jan 1994 Channel Indicators: n/a

**Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED** 

Concepts: PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE, CONSULTATIONS (UN)

Control Number: n/a Copy: SINGLE Draft Date: 08 may 1978 Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW Disposition Action: RELEASED Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW

Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014 Disposition Event: Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978USUNN01844
Document Source: CORE

**Document Unique ID: 00** Drafter: n/a

Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: GS Errors: N/A

**Expiration:** Film Number: D780195-0275

Format: TEL From: USUN NEW YORK

**Handling Restrictions:** Image Path:

ISecure: 1 Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780581/aaaacrbs.tel

Line Count: 74 Litigation Code IDs: Litigation Codes:

Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 90a82aa2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Office: ACTION SS

Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS

Reference: n/a Retention: 0

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Content Flags:

Review Date: 30 jun 2005 Review Event: Review Exemptions: n/a **Review Media Identifier:** Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

SAS ID: 2757471 Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: SOUTH LEBANON: POSSIBLE SYG REPRESENTATIVE IN BEIRUT

TAGS: MARR, IS, LE, UNIFIL

To: STATE Type: TE

vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/90a82aa2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Review Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014